

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Norris W. Green)
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 Plaintiff(s))
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 vs.) Civil Action No. 2:18-cv-719-TFM
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 State Board of Medical Examiners; et al)
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 Defendant(s))

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

This civil case has been randomly assigned to a United States Magistrate Judge of this court. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. 636(c), the Magistrate Judges of this court are designated to conduct any and all proceedings in a jury or non-jury civil case and to order the entry of final judgment upon the consent of all parties to a case. Any appeal from a judgment entered by a Magistrate Judge is taken directly to the United States Court of Appeal for the Eleventh Circuit in the same manner as is any appeal from any judgment entered in this court.

There are advantages to consenting to a Magistrate Judge. The principal one is that the Magistrate Judges have fewer civil case assignments than do the District Judges and may therefore be able to place you on a less crowded term or otherwise get your case resolved more quickly. As you know, the Middle District is in a judicial emergency with only one active District Judge for a three-judge court. The district court docket is very congested, and visiting District Judges from other locations throughout the country are being assigned to preside in some cases in which the parties do not consent. The parties are therefore encouraged to consider consent to a local Magistrate Judge as an alternative in order to move cases along while judicial resources are very limited. All of our Magistrate Judges have substantial experience in managing and trying civil cases; they are extremely competent and knowledgeable in the law and relevant civil procedures.

As a party to this lawsuit, you have the right to consent or decline consent to the jurisdiction of a Magistrate Judge. At a later date, you will be asked either to confirm your consent to a Magistrate Judge or request reassignment. Litigants, without concern for any adverse consequences, freely may decline consent to the jurisdiction of a Magistrate Judge. If you decline consent to a Magistrate Judge, this case will be reassigned randomly to a District Judge. **HOWEVER, due to the judicial emergency currently existing in this district, any case reassigned to a District Judge will immediately be REFERRED back to the Magistrate Judge for consideration and disposition of or recommendation on all pretrial matters, including dispositive motions. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B).**

This notice was transmitted on the 4th day of September, 2018.

DEBRA P. HACKETT, CLERK